

In Quest of
TRUTH



The Golden Series of
**THE PROPHET'S
COMPANIONS**

SALMAN AL-FARISI رضي الله عنه

ABDUL BASIT AHMAD



DARUSSALAM
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THE PROPHET'S
COMPANIONS

باحث عن الهدى
سلمان الفارسي
(باللغة الإنجليزية)

IN QUEST OF TRUTH

From the worship of fire in Persia to Christianity in Syria, to the guiding light of Islam in the desert of Arabia; such was the journey of Salman Al-Farisi رضي الله عنه as he set out in search of the truth. He abandoned a life of wealth, security and luxury in favor of seeking knowledge of His Lord, Allah. His life was a manifestation of the Prophet statement:

"I Whoever travels upon a path seeking to acquire knowledge, then Allah will facilitate for him a path of Paradisee."

This story relates the events of Salman's life and the miraculous manner in which he came to find and accept Islam.



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The Golden Series of
THE PROPHET'S COMPANIONS

“In Quest of the Truth”

Salmân

Al-Fârisi

سالمان
الفرسي



Abdul Basit Ahmad

Edited by

Abu Taymiyyah Shafiq Siddiq



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the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful*

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مِّنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ رِجَالٌ صَدَقُوا مَا عَاهَدُوا اللَّهَ
عَلَيْهِ فَمِنْهُمْ مَّنْ قَضَىٰ نَحْبَهُ وَمِنْهُمْ مَّنْ
يَنْتَظِرُ وَمَا بَدَّلُوا تَبْدِيلًا

“Among the believers are men who have been true to their covenant with Allah [i.e. they have gone out for Jihâd (holy fighting), and showed not their backs to the disbelievers]; of them some have fulfilled their obligations (i.e. have been martyred); and some of them are still waiting, but they have never changed [i.e. They never proved treacherous to their covenant which they concluded with Allah] in the least.” (33:23)



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Publisher's Note

All praises are due to Allâh, the Lord of all that exists. May Allâh's peace and blessings be upon His final Prophet and Messenger, Muhammad, his family and his Companions.

The following story, "Salman Al-Farisi-In Quest of Truth," discusses the life of one of Islam's greatest heroes. Salman Al-Farisi was born into a house of nobility and wealth in the land of Persia. Yet, due to his sincerity and virtue, Allah placed a burning desire in his heart to know the truth about the purpose of life and religion.

Darrusalam is pleased to present this valuable series, "The Golden Series of the Prophet's Companions" to the Muslim youth. The purpose of these books is to enlighten our youth about the lives of the greatest heroes of Islam, the Prophet's Companions.

The stories in this series are not "make-believe" or fables, but are real life stories of various important individuals in the history of Islam. The reader will learn how very ordinary people heard about and came to accept the message of Islam from Prophet Muhammad ﷺ himself.

Abdul Malik Mujahid
General Manager



Foreword

Every human being has an objective in his life for which he does everything he can to attain. Some people see that collecting much money is the thing that deserves working for; but others look for something more rewarding than worldly things. They therefore, go in a long journey of hardships and sufferings until they achieve their objectives.

Our hero, Salmân Al Fârisi is one of those men who sought to attain the ultimate truth. He was given the power that enabled him to go beyond worldly things and search for a more meaningful life. He left behind the world of pleasures and ease and instead, travelled in pursuit of the truth. He was a man who never looked back when he knew that he found answers to all his inquiries about the true faith. Before that, his life was a mix of doubts and hesitations that made him, in spite of the luxury and riches he enjoyed, live in a world of

darkness and gloom.

Hence, he made a long journey to the land where divine truth was revealed. In spite of the many obstacles he met and the suffering he experienced on his way to guidance, he never complained or retreated. He was driven by an overwhelming desire to free himself from slavery to doubt and false deities.

He was a man of thought and wisdom and a man who contributed much to the victory of the message of Islâm through his original and creative ideas. He lived up to his morals and values taught to him by the Prophet ﷺ to the last moment of his life. He was humble and merciful towards the poor and needy while, at the same time, strong and decisive towards the arrogant and the evil.

He was one of those soldiers who joined the Muslim army to fight many battles for the sake of spreading the call of Islâm. He was also the governor who set an example of justice and piety for those to follow.

To know more about our hero, Salmân Al-Fârisi, I invite you to read the following pages which I hope, will shed light on some aspects of his life which he spent in quest and defense of the truth.

Abdul Basit Ahmad

The Long Journey to Truth

Background

In ancient times there were two super powers; the Persian and Roman Empires. The Persian Empire, on the one hand, was spreading its power over nearly half of the populated world. The people of this powerful Empire mostly worshipped fire falsely alleging it to be the source of light and knowledge. They erected fire temples everywhere throughout the empire and allocated huge resources to run these temples.

The Roman Empire, on the other hand, ruled over the other half of the world. The people under the rule of this

Empire followed distorted versions of the Christian Bible. The two Empires were not at good terms with each other, they waged fierce wars against each other.



The Lonely Boy

Salmân Al Fârisi (The Persian) was the only son of a ruling family in Persia. His father ruled over a town named “Jay” of Asbahân Province (presently “Irân”) The boy led a pleasant and painless life under the care of his father who loved him very much and kept him under close control for fear to lose him. The boy had nothing to do except to play most of the time and enjoy every moment of his life.

When Salmân grew up, his father directed him to serve in the fire temple and learn the rites of Mazdaism. So, he spent most of his time in the temple until he was given the rank of a fire setter.

He was now given some freedom to move here and there and to know more about the world around him. Although he was going to the fire temple daily, he felt inside himself that he was paying homage to something trivial. His aspiring soul was looking for something more convincing than this fire.

As his father was so busy at home, he asked his only son to look after a farm he had in the outskirts of the town. The boy accepted the mission with happiness and carefully listened to the last advice of his loving father:

“Salmân, come back soon and take care. You know how dear you are to me.”

Every day, the boy was going to the farm. On the way there, he was passing by colored scenery in the gardens around the town through which he sensed that they were made by a power that gives life not a fire that kills it.

Introduction

to Divine Guidance

One day, all of a sudden he heard voices coming out of a church that stood near his way to the farm. The closer he came to the church, the louder the voices became. He stood at the gate of the church hesitant in deciding whether to go in or to leave. However, a driving force pushed him inside. He was anxious to know what could be those people who chant with serenity within those high walls.

He stood at a corner with his eyes fixed on the man on the stage giving a sermon to a group of people who were listening to him with great attention and tranquility. After a while, they all said their prayers and began dispersing.



Mazdaism Tower of Silence. Yazd, Iran

Salmân was amazed on hearing those nice words uttered by the priest and could not help but to move towards him. He greeted the man and began inquiring about the things he saw and heard. He immediately started asking:

"What was that you were doing? To whom were you praying and what is your religion?"

His father had told him before that Mazdaism was the only true religion on earth. Many times, he warned him from

diverting from the right way and urged him to keep to the fire temple and fulfill its rites. He, more than once, told him that fire is sublime and the only source of knowledge and wisdom.

Salmân attentively listened to the Priest explaining to him the principles of Christianity in a tone that touched his heart. However, the man sadly told him that the people had distorted the principles of Christianity and that if he was anxious to know about and follow the pure principles of this religion, he should travel to the land of Shâm (Syria).

Sunset was about to throw its shades and shadows over the high tops of mountains. Salmân was late going home and he feared he would be disciplined by his father. He bade the man farewell and hastily went back home. His father was waiting for him. He had already sent his men around to look for Salmân. He was afraid that his son might have had some trouble.

As soon as he arrived, his father hugged him and began asking questions:

"What took you so long? You're very dear to me and I was worried for you."

The young man soothed the fears of his father and told him everything he saw and heard. He said:

"Father, I passed by a church where I saw some people praying to a deity different from ours. I was there all this time and I really liked their religion".

His father's face became black of anger. He vehemently shouted to his son and warned him not to go there again. He argued that people worshipping other than fire were misguided.



Salmân had already made his mind up to follow this religion. Therefore he did not pay much attention to his father's warnings. He told his father decisively that those people were following a religion better than theirs and that he would prefer to follow their example. He was sure that fire was not his true creator.

Father and son had a long discussion but Salmân finally told his father that he liked the religion of the Christians and he would prefer to worship one God.

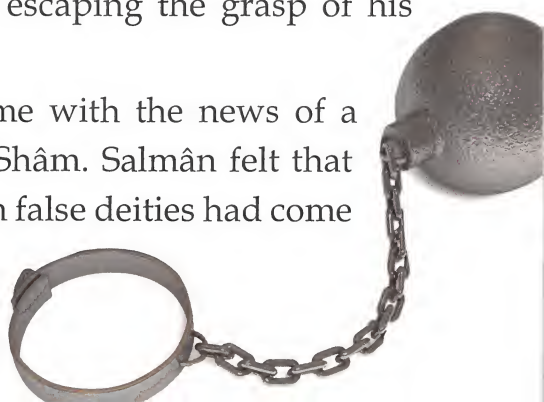
At that moment, the father felt that he was losing his son. He knew that his son's searching spirit had taken him away from him and he wished he had died before hearing these words from him.

Confinement

His father ordered his men to put chains around Salmân's legs and to keep him behind locked doors. He spent many days inside the prison behind thick walls and locked doors. He was pondering about the new belief that was inserted deeply in his heart. He was longing for a new life with new sweet adventures to the land where he would find this true religion.

Salmân sent a secret messenger to the church priest seeking to know of any caravan bound to Shâm. He spent some time waiting for news from the Priest, wishing for a life of devotion to Allâh after escaping the grasp of his father.

One day, the messenger came with the news of a caravan bound to the land of Shâm. Salmân felt that the moment to set him free from false deities had come



near. Under the cover of the dark night, he left the room where he had been confined with the help of his guard and met the caravan traders traveling to Shâm.

Running Away from Gloom

Salmân left to where the Priest told him he would find answers to his many questions. Days and nights were passing and bringing him closer to his destination. On the way, he saw the stars brighter and more beautiful than before. He was looking up at them as if he had seen them for the first time. He thought for a while that they were different from those that had shone over his motherland.

Salmân and the Priest

Upon his arrival to Shâm, he saw a new world with new faces. He did not spare a minute without asking about the man whom he should keep company with to know more about true Christianity. The people told him to go to the church where he should meet their priest. Salmân met the priest and told him his story. He asked him to allow him to stay with him to worship Allâh, to learn more about the teachings of Christianity and to serve in the church. The man agreed that Salmân could stay in the church and keep company with him.

Salmân started learning new things about the new



religion. He was asking many questions and reading the bible. Unfortunately, after a short time, he discovered that the priest he was serving was so bad that he was urging his followers to give alms to the poor but he was keeping such alms for himself. The inevitable end came and the Priest died. His followers were busy with his funeral but before they buried him, Salmân told them about the truth of their priest. They were astonished to hear such words about the man they loved and took as an example of piety.

They asked Salmân to prove his words; otherwise, they would subject him to punishment. Salmân took them to the place where the man was collecting the money. They found out that he collected seven jars of gold and silver. So, they decided to crucify and stone his dead body.

More Knowledge and Wisdom

The people elected another priest whom Salmân found to be a truthful man devoting all his time to worship. Salmân liked the priest and learnt from him how a true believer should be.

To Salmân's bad luck, the man passed away after a short time. However, before he did pass away, Salmân asked him to suggest him another man holding the same true values and teachings. The priest told him about a man still sincere to the true bible and teachings of the Messiah.

"Go, my son, to Mosul, for there is a man whom you can trust"

These were the last words of the Priest to Salmân.

A New Journey

to Another Strange Land

Salmân left Shâm to seek the suggested righteous man in Mosul. He traveled a long journey on the back of camels to that land. He thought all the way how much he had to suffer in pursuit of truth. However, he was aware that it was inevitable for him to go in that direction. He recalled how he left all riches and pleasures behind for the sake of a true religion for which he would tour the globe if he had to.

After several days, Salmân met the man described to him. He told him his story and asked him permission to keep his company. The man welcomed Salmân and surrounded him with all the love and kindness he could offer.

Salmân stayed with the new scholar worshipping and serving in the church. Not much time passed until he became versant with the true bible and gained a lot of knowledge of it. He added a lot to his experience and refined his worship to Allâh following the steps of this pious man.



Where to Go Now

As Salmân had been destined to continue his journey to the very end, the man whom he stayed with for years was now on his deathbed. Salmân felt sad to depart with this good man. However, death is inescapable so he asked him to tell him where to go. The man told him about a man of true knowledge and strict adherence to Christianity at a town called Nâsibin.

Salmân travelled to Nâsibin where he met this man. He met the elderly man, told him his story and pleaded him to accept him as a disciple.

"I traveled a long way to here and spent days and nights seeking your company, would you accept me as your servant?"

The man hugged Salmân and assured him:

"You will be my disciple and friend."

Salmân felt happy to find a substitute for the man he lost in Mosul. So, he stayed with the man for several years.

One day, to the fears of Salmân, the man got sick. Salmân thought it was his bad luck to be left alone for the third time. He was frightened to lose his new guide. To be sure that he would be advised to go to a truthful man of religion, he asked the dying priest to tell him of anyone who could be of help to him. The man directed him to go to the only man he knew still upholding to true Christianity in Âmûriyyah. Salmân buried his teacher and left to the new station in his journey.

The Last of the Christians

Now Salmân had become a mature man. He learnt the very details of true Christianity. And there in Âmûriyyah he met the man. He told him his story and asked him to allow him to keep his company. After a short time, yet again, the man of Âmûriyyah is on his deathbed.

"Wait! Don't leave me alone. Tell me where I am destined to go and whom I should take as a teacher."

The man, with a weak voice, said to him:

"My dear son, I have no idea about anyone in the world that is still holding to true Christianity. However, my son, it is the time when a new Prophet is about to appear. You will find him at a place to which he will migrate where plenty of palm trees grow. You will be so lucky if you could join him and follow his religion. My son! He has three clear signs which you should check to be sure that he is the man you are looking for:

- 1. He does not accept alms for himself.*
- 2. He accepts gifts;*
- 3. And he has the seal of Prophecy printed on his back between his shoulders.*

When you will see him, surely you will know him."

Another Change of Direction

Salmân started asking people about the land that the man described. He finally knew that it was the Arabian Peninsula. However, how would he get there and who with?

One day, a caravan was bound to that land. Salmân asked the caravan men to take him with them. He offered them his cattle and sheep as a reward. They accepted the offer and took him to the land with plenty of palm trees.

Salmân Taken As a Slave

When the caravan was about to reach Makkah, the caravan men captured Salmân, took him a slave and sold him to a Jew in the town. There he saw plenty of palm trees which, in spite of slavery, inspired him with hope that this might be the place described to him by the priest, to where the newly commissioned Prophet would migrate.

He stayed for years under slavery with one aim in mind: To see the new Prophet.

He then came to the conclusion that this town was not the one meant by the priest. However, it was different this time for he could not continue his journey. He was a slave serving his master who paid money to buy him.

One day, a Jew from Guraithah (a Jewish tribe living at the suburbs of Yathrib - now Madinah) visited his master. He asked the man to sell Salmân to him to which the former agreed. The new master took him to Yathrib. Salmân also saw many palm trees in this city. He felt very happy for being brought here. He was aware that Allâh who first guided him to truth would not let him down this time. In Madinah, Salmân served his new master and cared for his orchard of palm trees.



A Glimpse of Light

One day, while Salmân was on top of a palm tree and his master was sitting under it, a Jew came hastily and addressed his master saying:

"Have you heard the news? The people of Qila (the inhabitants of Madinah) are competing to host a man who came from Makkah, who they claim is a Prophet."

Upon hearing these words, Salmân's body started to shiver and he was about to fall down the tree. He hurriedly went down the tree and pleaded the man to tell the news again.

His master was angry at Salmân's interference. He hit him severely in the side and said:

"It is none of your business. Get back to work."

Salmân obeyed the orders of his master.

He spent the whole day thinking of the words the priest said to him about the new Prophet and the news he heard from the Jew. He, on the other hand, felt that the days of slavery are about to end. But how to find a way to meet the Prophet and test the signs told to him by the Priest.



The First Meeting with the Prophet ﷺ

Salmân waited till sunset. He gathered some dates and went to the Prophet at Qûba. The Prophet was sitting there with a group of his companions. Salmân greeted them and said:

"I know you are strangers and poor. Please accept this charity."

He put the dates and watched how the Prophet would act. For Salmân's amazement, The Prophet asked his companions to take the food but he did not share it with them. Salmân thought to himself:

"This is the first sign I was



told about. He is a man who does not accept alms."

On the next day, he brought some food and asked the Prophet to accept it as a gift. He addressed the Prophet saying:

"I found that you did not accept charity; so I brought this for you as a gift."

To Salmân's pleasure, the Prophet asked his companions to share the meal with him. Salmân said to himself:

"This is the second sign proved true."

However, an experienced man like Salmân would not but go all the way through. He wanted to be sure of the third and last sign the priest told him about. After some time he came to the Prophet. He found him with his companions at a funeral at Baqi'.

The Prophet was used to wearing two garments and walk behind his companions. Salmân greeted the congregation and walked behind the Prophet trying to see the seal of Prophecy. At a sudden, the Prophet took off his upper dress and invited Salmân to check the seal.

The Prophet ﷺ said:

"Are not you sure now?"

Salmân said:

"This is the third sign!"

Yes, indeed, it was there, strikingly clear to the extent that Salmân, out of sheer joy and simultaneous humility, embraced the Prophet ﷺ and kissed it.

In The Shrine of **Islâm**

The Prophet sat with Salmân and asked him about his story. Salmân told the Prophet and his companions about his journey. He advanced toward the Prophet and told him that he accepted Islâm as his faith.

However, Salmân was still a slave. He was longing to free himself so as to be able to share with his fellow Muslims building the new state of Islam. He urged the Prophet ﷺ to help him in order that he might free himself.

The Prophet assured Salmân. He told him to agree with his master to set him free. Salmân asked his master to set him free and the Jew accepted to do so on the condition that Salmân should grow three hundred palm trees for him and pay forty silver ounces.

As Salmân was too poor to meet his master's conditions, the Prophet asked his companions to offer help. Although they had very limited resources, they offered a number of palm trees and Salmân finally grew the requested palm trees. However, Salmân still had to pay the forty silver ounces. He thought for a while that he would never be able to escape the yoke of slavery.

One day the Prophet ﷺ called him and gave him a small piece of gold. He requested him to give to his master. Salmân found the piece of gold too small to pay the man. The Prophet saw amazement in Salmân's eyes. He assured him that it would suffice. Salmân paid the Jew the requested

money and immediately joined his fellow Muslims.

This was the journey that Salmân made from his motherland where he left behind all worldly pleasures to come to Madinah where he met a new family of believers. It was really a striking pursuit of truth, a truth that kept him restless till he found it. He travelled through many towns and villages and traveled long distances along which he saw good and bad people and faced great hardships. He never thought when he left his town in Persia that he would come across so many bitter and sweet experiences.

His ultimate aim was to rest with the truth that would illuminate his heart and set him free, not only from slavery to others, but also from slavery to his doubts and spiritual turmoil.

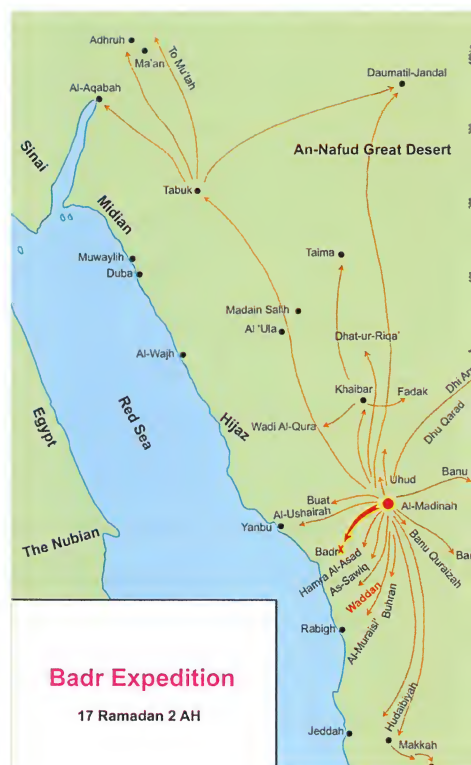
Here in Madinah, he found a new world, a new way of life, totally different from what he was used to. Here, he joined a group of believers who taught him a sublime example of fraternity and mutual understanding. Here, he discovered a new concept of humanity, free from racial discrimination, with equal rights and duties irrespective of colour or origin.

Finally, he found the ultimate source of light and wisdom where he would quench his thirst for a meaningful life and where he would accompany the man whom he longed to live with. He loved the Prophet ﷺ, the Muslims and Islâm and defended the true religion to the best of his abilities.

In this new community of believers, Salmân was preparing to start a new journey, a journey that would go on to the last minute of his life. However, such a new journey would be totally different. It will be a journey into truth and for the sake of spreading the light of truth.

The Battle of Badr

No longer did the Prophet and his companions settle in Madinah than the Pagans of Makkah started their conspiracies to put an end to the new message. During the second year after migration, the Quraysh marched toward Madinah aiming at destroy Islâm. They mobilized one thousand soldiers armed to the teeth in a parade until they arrived at a place named “Badr”.



The Prophet received news of the advancing army. He and his companions discussed the threat and began mobilizing to meet their enemy. They were still weak and poor but they trusted that Allâh would not disappoint them. Both Supporters and Migrants, combined in a solid body, were filled with zeal to avenge themselves concerning the pagans who maltreated

The New Challenges

Salmân was fully aware of the difficulties Muslims were facing in their struggle to keep secure against the plots of Jews as well as Pagans. He and his Muslim brothers were commissioned to proclaim the message of Islâm; but the followers of evil would not let them do that.

them while they were in Makkah. They mobilized an army of three hundred and thirteen soldiers.

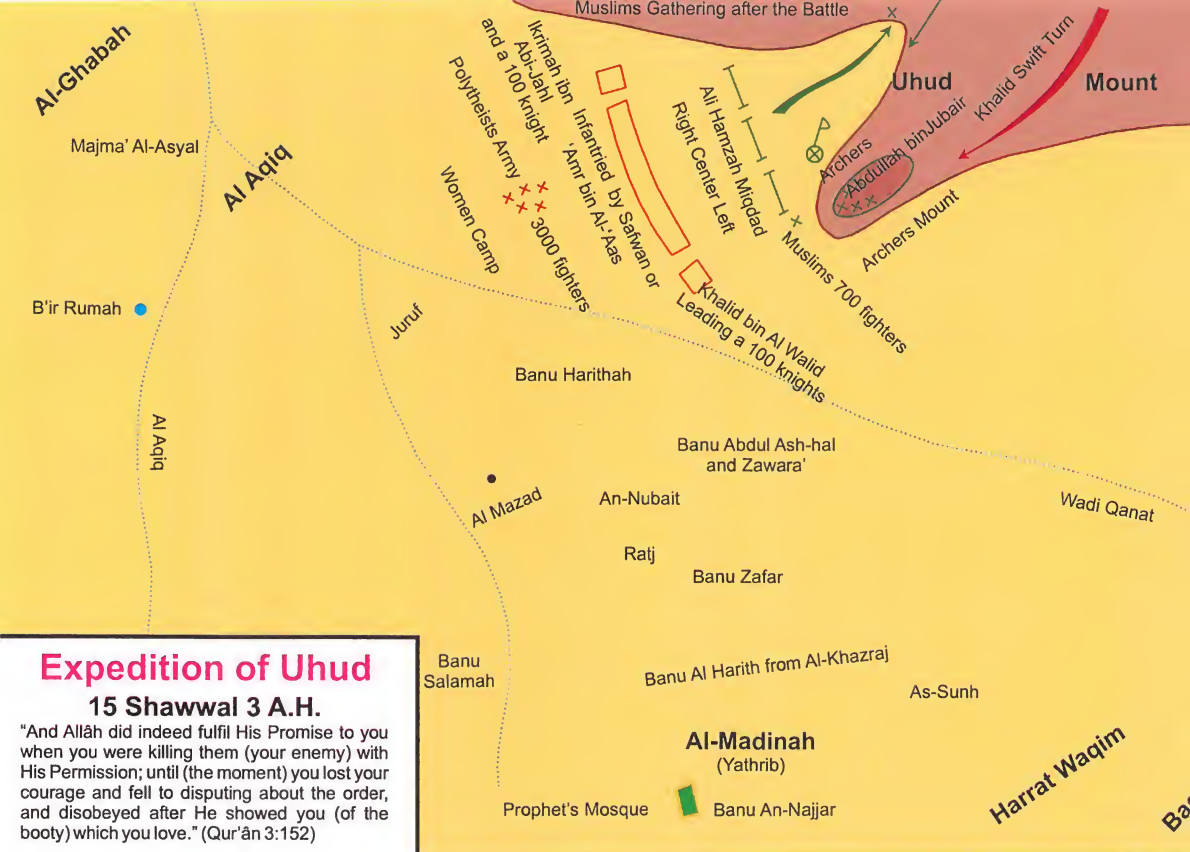
The two armies came face to face at Badr and engaged in a fierce battle. Muslims were so brave in spite of the fact that the pagans outnumbered them. At last, the pagans fled from the battlefield and left behind their dead soldiers and prisoners of war.

Salmân felt how much Allâh had helped them in the battle. He and his brother Muslims went back to Madinah filled with dignity and honour to continue their efforts in spreading the Word of Allâh. He did not spare any time but to learn more about Islâm and to strengthen his belief in Allâh and his Messenger. He kept very close to the Prophet and always followed his steps.

The Jewish Conspiracies

As suburbs inhabited by Jews surrounded Madinah, the Prophet concluded with them treaties of mutual support. However, the Jews observed no covenants and met no obligations. They felt the danger that Islâm posed for them. Hence, they were plotting in secret to weaken the Muslims.

The Prophet ﷺ, out of trust, visited one of their clans and asked them to help the Muslims. Instead of supporting him, they tried to kill the Prophet ﷺ. A man climbed on top of a high place and attempted to throw a big rock on the Prophet. However, Gabriel, the angel, told him about the plot and asked him to leave his place. Therefore, the Prophet had no choice but to expel them from Madinah.



The Battle of Uhud a Setback!

To add to the difficult situation for the Muslims, the pagans were restless after they had been defeated at Badr. They insisted on avenging themselves against the Muslims and mobilized an army of three thousand soldiers and again marched toward Madinah.

The Prophet knew of the Quraysh's plans and decided to face the challenge. He held a war council and finally decided to meet the enemy at Uhud.

This was the second battle for Muslims to fight to protect their state and faith. A short time later, the two armies engaged in fierce battle for the second time.

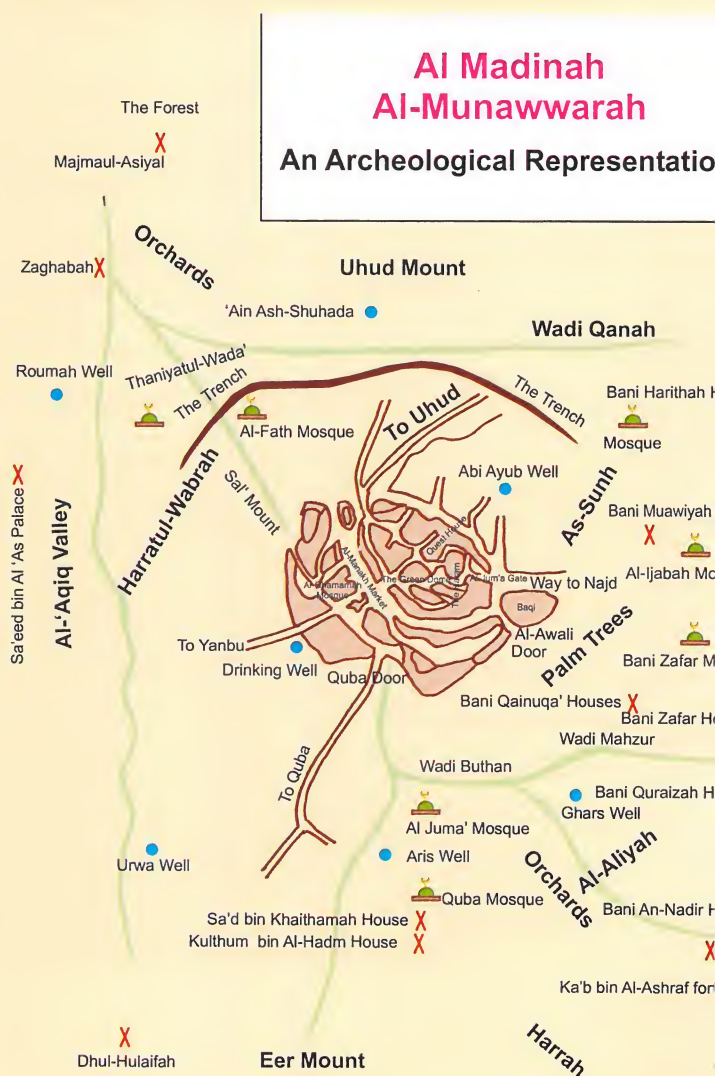
The Muslims began overcoming the pagan army. However, the archers whom the Prophet positioned to protect the backs of the Muslim army left their positions and chased after the fleeing enemy. So, the pagan horsemen found it a good chance to reinitiate the attack from behind the Muslim ranks and to finally turn the battle in their favour. Many Muslims were martyred and the remaining troops hardly escaped a total defeat.

Salmân and his brothers fought a big battle and tasted the defeat they had because some of them disobeyed the orders of the commander. This was the second test Salmân experienced to prove how much he was sincere to his faith. He felt grief for his martyred brothers. However, Salmân neither retreated nor subdued by the hardships he and his brothers were facing day after day.

The Strategist

Salmân acquired more wisdom and profound insight into things. He was always the man to resort to at times of crisis. It was now his turn to show how much he was useful to his community. He was fully aware that the new Muslim community needed his knowledge and experience, which he offered with zeal and love.

As the pagans won the last battle against the Muslims, they were encouraged by such victory to continue their war against Islâm. They felt strong enough to invade Madinah and undermine the call of Islâm. They gathered ten thousand men under arms to achieve their goal. The Jews in Madinah, on the other hand, felt that their interests would be best served if they conclude a treaty with the pagans against the Muslims although they had already concluded a treaty of mutual support with the Muslims. The Quraysh and their allies with the support of the



Jews set a date for what they believed to be the fatal strike against the Muslims.

Several Arab tribes led by Abū Sufyān, promised to be helped by the Jews in Madinah, mobilized all warriors, arms and means to undermine the new religion.

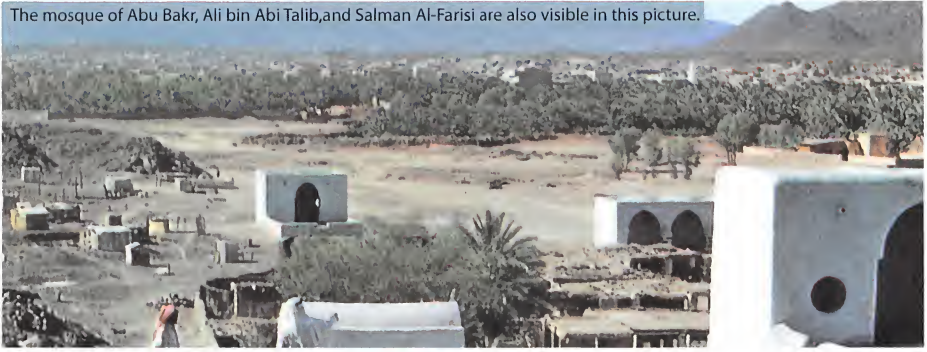
The Prophet received news from his uncle, Al-'Abbās, explaining to him the plots made by the allies. He was aware, at that difficult time after the Battle of Uhud, that he had neither time nor resources to deploy his men to fight an open battle. The difference in power, compared to previous battles, was this time very large. He knew that he would not be able to mobilize more than three thousand warriors who, moreover, would not have the same means to fight such a battle especially that the pagans and Jews were preparing for this battle for a long time and provided their armies with the latest arms and means known at that time.

As he had been accustomed to, the Prophet consulted his companions and asked their advice. Some of them proposed to go outside the borders of Madinah and fight an open battle. They trusted that Allāh would help them as He did in Badr.

Others advised the Prophet to keep inside Madinah to defend the town and fight a guerrilla type battle.

The Prophet was sure that leaving Madinah to fight an open battle would involve a high risk especially because 'Abdullāh bin 'Ubayy – the chief of the hypocrites - and his followers would not spare such an opportunity with the help of the Jews to control the town. He was also sure that Banū

The mosque of Abu Bakr, Ali bin Abi Talib, and Salman Al-Farisi are also visible in this picture.



Quraidhah (a Jewish clan) with whom he had a treaty, would not support him in his battle against the pagans especially that they had concluded a treaty with the Quraysh and their allies to support them in their upcoming battle against the Muslims.

On the other hand, the Prophet feared that if he took shield inside the fences of Madinah, his men might, under the pressure of the enemy forces, escape the battle and leave children and women under the mercy of the enemy soldiers.

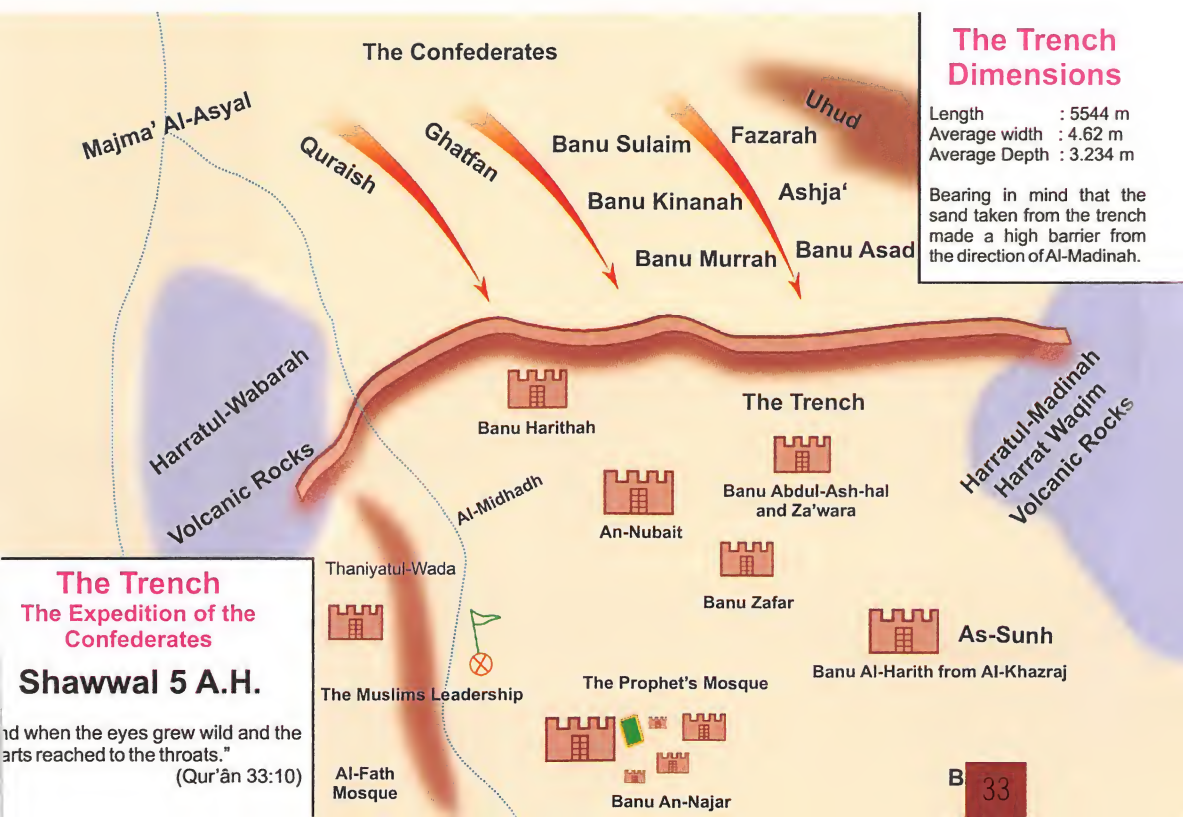
The Prophet felt that all plans proposed to him were defective at one point or another. The danger to eradicate the new message was coming closer and time was consuming. It was really a great crisis for which the Prophet did his best to find a way out.

At last, Salmân proposed the solution. He recalled the days when he was in his motherland and how the Persian leaders were defending cities against the Roman raids. He proposed to adopt the same technique. He suggested gathering the whole Muslim army around the outskirts of Madinah behind a wide and deep trench separating them from the enemy.

The Trench

Muslims were astonished to hear such a proposal. They had never known such a way of fighting. All they knew was to meet with the enemy face to face in an open battle. However, Salmân explained the plan. He proposed to dig a wide and deep trench behind fences with the Muslim army to be deployed at the inner side of the trench and their backs to Madinah so as to foil any attempts made by the enemy soldiers to cross over the trench.

The Prophet welcomed the idea and asked Salmân to set the layout. Salmân planned to deploy the archers over fences while the other soldiers were to be deployed on the



inner side of the trench with their backs to Madinah fences.

After lengthy discussions, the Prophet was totally convinced that this was the only way to defend their town and community. He gave orders to dig the trench and initiated the first strike. All the Muslims participated in work with a very high spirit and overwhelming enthusiasm. Salmân, on the other side, was helping them and telling them stories about the achievements that trenches made against invading armies. Work on digging the trench was progressing hour by hour.

As usual in every human effort, some difficulties might come through. While Muslims were digging in a rocky area, a huge rock formed a great obstruction to the progress of work. Nine people were trying their best to break the rock but all efforts were in vain. At last they suggested reporting the case to the Prophet.

A beautiful mosque at the place of the Battle of Trench





Miracles

and Promised Miracles

The Prophet took Salmân's axe, stepped down into the trench and hit the rock with the axe fiercely. Sparks came out as a result of the blow and the Prophet shouted:

"Allâhu Akbar (Allâh is the Greatest)"

The other Muslims standing at the top of the trench reiterated his words. The second hit by the Prophet brought out a light as if a lantern was lit in a dark room and the Prophet said:

"Allah is the Greatest".

The other Muslims reiterated his words. The third hit by the Prophet (saws) was sure to break the rock into pieces. The Prophet went up the trench. Salmân filled with wonder said:

“O Messenger of Allâh! I have seen something I had never seen before.”

The Prophet asked the other Muslims:

“Did you see what Salmân had seen?”

They replied: “Yes, we have seen you hitting the rock and light was coming out.”

The Prophet said:

“When I hit the rock the first time I saw Hyre palaces and Caesar citadels. Gabriel, the angel, told me that my followers will conquer that land. In the second hit, I saw the Roman palaces. Gabriel told me that my followers will also conquer that land. In the third hit I saw the palaces of Sanai. Gabriel told me that my followers will conquer that land.”



How strange is it? A man digging a trench to protect his town promises victory over super powers!!! These were the doubts brought about by hypocrites. They took the Prophet's words as a joke. They were saying: “Muhammad tells us that we will conquer the Persian and Roman Empires while no one of us dare come out of one's house.” However, true Muslims trusted every word said by the Prophet. Salmân

himself was sure that every promise would inevitably come true.

Indeed, it was a difficult time for Muslims that made some of them doubt the truth of the message especially that they were about to be besieged by enemies. No one could even whisper such words except a Prophet sure of Allâh's support and help. We read in Qur'ân about the feelings of the Muslims when they heard these words. Allâh says:

"When the Believers saw the confederate forces, they said: 'This is what Allâh and his Messenger had promised us. And Allâh and His Messenger told us what was true.' And it only added to their faith and their zeal in obedience."

The confederates arrived at the trench. They were astonished to see such a military trick. They stood behind the trench helpless. Some of them tried to cross over but were either caught by the Muslims or driven down the trench.

The Muslims stood fast in the face of the pagan forces that came from the four corners of the Arabian Peninsula with the support of the Jews to undermine their religion. The pagans were stopped by the trench but at the same time were standing there like wolves waiting for the prey to surrender.

Things always go according to Allâh's will. Allâh would give no support if no measures are taken on the part of believers. As Muslims had now fulfilled requirements, the promised divine support was willed to be given.

The Divine Soldiers

The siege continued and the conditions in Madinah were worsening. The Pagans on one side and the Jews on the other were preparing to attack.

A very strong and cold wind blew through enemy's tents and forced them to leave with despair. Allâh had sent his help down to the Muslims. Allâh says:

"There came down on you hosts (to overwhelm you): But we sent against them a hurricane and forces that you could not see..."

Since the day Salmân heard those words from the Prophet and he began counting days to witness the truth of Islâm spreading all over the Globe. He surely knew that it was a matter of time to see the Persian and Roman empires conquered by the new religion as promised by the Prophet.

And indeed, he witnessed the four corners of the globe iterating the blessed call of Allâhu Akbar (Allâh is the Greatest). He saw by his own eyes peoples of all nations gathered together to repeat these divine words as he had heard them on the day he was digging the trench to protect the eternal message of Islâm.

The Real Family

Salmân rejected the pressure of the powers of darkness and toured the globe searching for truth. He left all worldly things behind and directed all his attention to a heavenly call to attain a more fruitful life.

No ordinary man, in the early days of youth would take that risk unless he is called by a divine power to attain a higher objective. Does it have any meaning to say that Salmân, at times of suffering, was haunted by a thought to go back to where he started? He might have recalled those days when he had no troubles, no difficulties and no



miseries. He might have recalled his father hugging him with love and compassion. However, I am sure that he never thought to retreat for he knew that he was devoted to a higher goal.

When Salmân arrived in Madinah and joined the Muslim community, he felt from the very beginning a real sense of family. As soon as he declared himself a Muslim, the whole Muslim community gave him assistance to free himself from slavery. Now he felt that all the Muslims were his brothers and sisters.

He was loved by all Muslims both migrants and Helpers. They all pleaded him to accept to be a member of their families. However, he was honoured at last to be a member of the Prophet's family when the Prophet told both parties:

"Salmân is a member of the House of the Prophet."

Salmân was from this time on belonging to a family that did not count on blood relationships as much as it counted on spiritual ties. He was sure that one day he would be a member of a larger family that has members all over the world.

The Example of Justice & Mercy

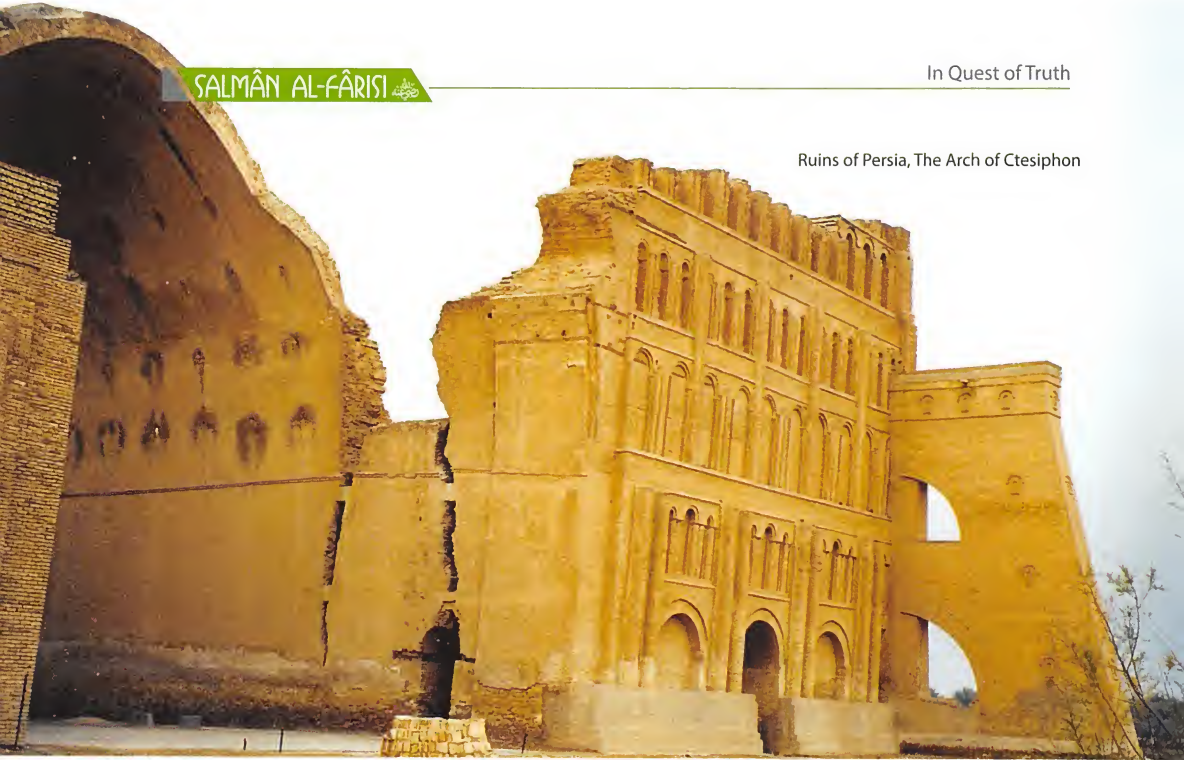
Salmân never thought that one day he would go back to his country of origin. After his long journey, he came to Madinah to live with the Prophet ﷺ and the Muslim community. He stayed beside the Prophet ﷺ to quench his thirst for knowledge and fulfill his duties as a true Muslim.

When the Prophet ﷺ passed away, he accompanied Abu Bakr ؓ and continued the way of life he had at the time of the Prophet with hopes to see the promises of the Prophet ﷺ come true.

Under the rule of 'Umar ؓ, Muslims continued the mission of spreading Islâm. Salmân left Madinah under the command of Sa'd bin Abi Waqqâs towards Iraq



Ruins of Persia, The Arch of Ctesiphon



and from there to his homeland, Persia. When the Muslim army conquered Al Madâ'in, Salmân was appointed by 'Umar bin Al Khattâb ﷺ as governor of that region.

He was now the governor of a land he left many years ago. He came back to his homeland but with different thoughts and faith. It was time to show his people the real Salmân. It was time to teach his people what Islâm did for him.

Salmân did not spare a minute to set an example of a humble and merciful governor. Governors always tend to distinguish themselves over the public, but Salmân learnt that a governor should serve and not be served. Through his way of rule, he taught the public how to be just and caring. He always cared for the poor and the needy.

One day, he passed by a group of soldiers. They whispered to each other words criticizing his humble way of life. When he was told about that, he said to his companion:

"It is now time to distinguish good from bad. Take heed, if you can, never be a leader even of two persons for you will never be just to the very end of your life, whatever you try."

He felt that he was shouldering a very heavy duty that he wanted to fulfill. He, once came to 'Umar and said to him:

"Had it not been an obligation to obey your orders, I would not have accepted to be a governor."

Salmân, as a governor, could bring back, if he so willed, those days when he had been rich. However, Islâm had changed him. He even used to spend his salary on the poor and the needy. He preferred to live on the what he earned from his own hard work. He was buying canes, making baskets and selling them in the market place. He was never seen wearing a dress down to his ankles.

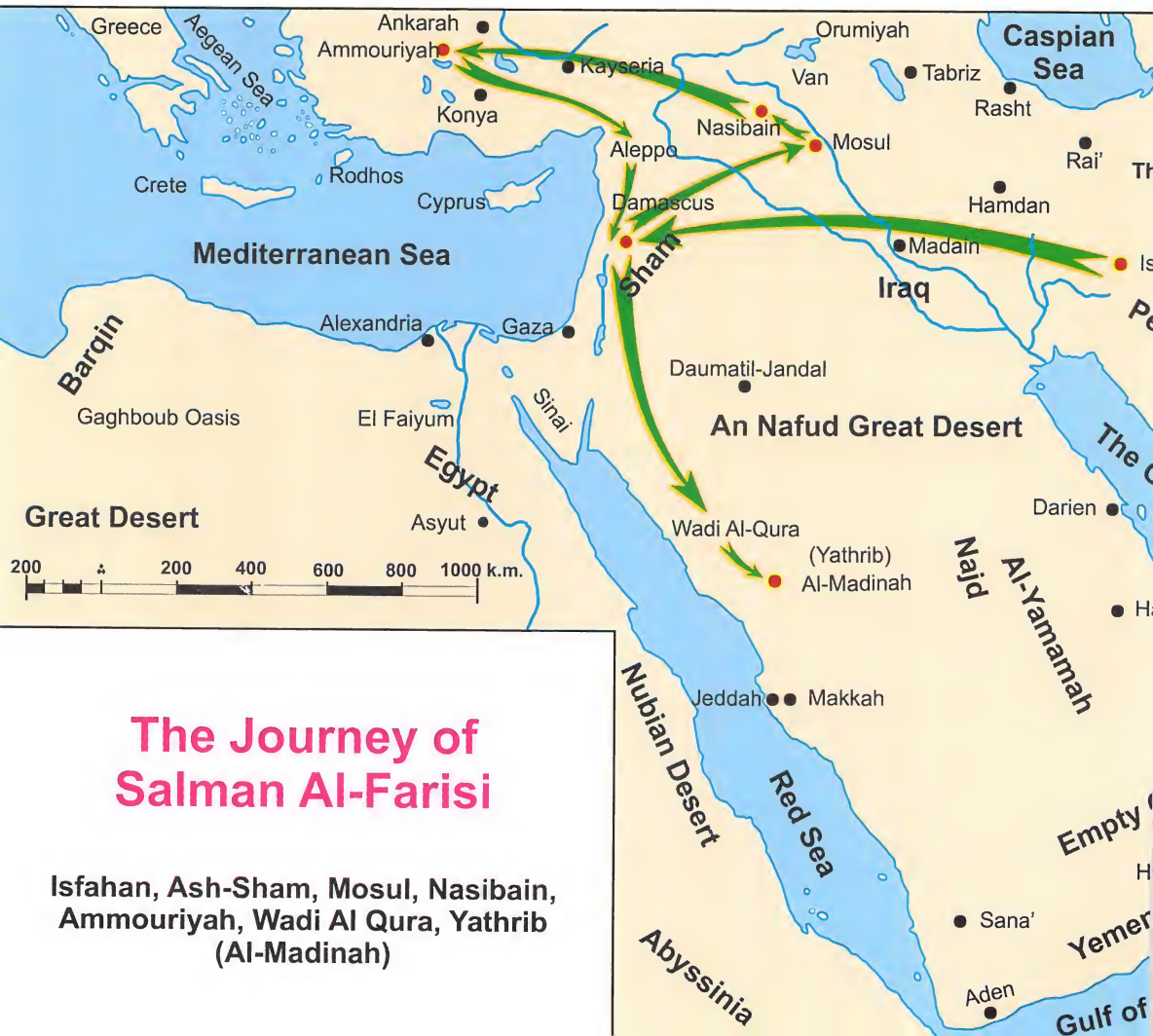
He was so humble to the extent that he was looking after the affairs of the town without being accompanied by guards. One day, Salmân was making a tour in the market place. A stranger with a heavy load on his back noticed how much Salmân was humble in dress and hence called him to carry that load to his domicile for some money. Salmân did and they both walked together. While they were passing by people in the street, the man heard them greet Salmân with the title of the "Governor". He could not find words to apologize. However, Salmân soothed his fears and insisted on carrying the load to the man's domicile.

One day, one of his friends visited him. He found him

preparing dough for bread. His friend blamed him for so doing and urged him to leave the job for his servant to do. Salmân, out of mercy and equality, told his friend that he sent the servant to the market place to buy some goods and that he did not like him to do two things at one time.

He was taught by the Prophet ﷺ to be that kind and just type of a governor. Islâm had generated within his soul a sense that superficial things always tend to evade and that original things always tend to last.

We all still remember Salmân for the great personality he had and for the great morals and values he held.



The Journey of Salman Al-Farisi

Isfahan, Ash-Sham, Mosul, Nasibain,
Ammuriyah, Wadi Al Qura, Yathrib
(Al-Madinah)

Last Words

No one would be safe from the influence of position, money or other worldly pleasures except those who look for something eternal. Salmân was one of those whose interests exceeded worldly things and temporal satisfaction of desires. All those who met him felt that strict observance of Islamic teachings he adopted.

On the other hand, Salmân was that type of a Muslim who was moderate in everything. He used to spend several days with his close friend Abu Al-Dardâ' ؓ who was used to fast every day and pray all night every night.

Salmân did not like that way of worship and advised his friend to care for himself and to give some break for his body. When the Prophet was informed of Salmân's advice, he admired his fine understanding of Islâm.

He was most of the time thinking about the eternal life. He feared to be one of those who might be the subject of Allâh's anger on doomsday.

He was always saying to his friends:

"You should know that a believer in this life is like a patient attended by a physician who knows what is good and bad for him. If that patient likes to have something that makes his health worse, the physician will deny him his



fatal desires until he recovers. So, Allâh prohibited things which may lead a believer to perish in hell."

His friend Abu Al-Dardâ' wrote him a letter calling him to go back to the sacred land. Salmân answered him saying:

"Sacred lands have never glorified a believer; rather a believer is the one who glorifies lands by his good deeds. It has come to my knowledge that you are made a judge; so be careful not to kill by being unjust."

After a long life he spent in worship and piety, Salmân fell ill and was bed ridden but his mind was awake. He was recalling those days when he stood beside the Prophet and his companions and the time he devoted himself to serve the cause of Islâm.

Many times did tears come down his cheeks and wet his beard for fear to be separated from his companions on the Day of Judgment. He was left alone and he did long to meet his friends in eternal life.

He neither feared death nor feared to leave this temporary life behind but he feared to have failed to



fulfill the words of the Prophet when he told him and his companions:

"Be in this life like a traveler who keeps minimum of everything".

It was time for Salmân, the son of Islâm, to take rest after this long life dedicated to it, and after a struggle and quest to find its truth. Yes, it was Islâm that gave to his life a unique end that no one did share.

The dawn was about to rise and the dying man was left alone with his wife. He asked her to bring him the piece of musk he brought from a faraway land a long time ago specially for this moment. He asked her to put the musk in a glass of water and spray the water around his bed. When she did, he asked her to leave him alone for he would be visited by some people who liked good cents.

She closed the door behind and went down the stairs. After a while she heard a whisper. She went up the stairs to find him dead.

Flights of angels visited the pure soul and took it wrapped in a musk scented cloth back to where it belonged. They took it to meet with souls of his beloved companions in the highest place in Paradise.





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